

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 10621 270812Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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P 270803Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9345

S E C R E T BONN 10621

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SCHMIDT, HELMUT) SOPN, OGEN, PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON: HIS CONCERN  
ABOUT RFE/RL

REFS: (A) BONN 10177; (B) BONN 10477

1. DURING THE CONVERSATION IN WHICH HE GAVE THE  
POLITICAL COUNSELOR A LIST OF TOPICS THAT SCHMIDT MIGHT  
WISH TO DISCUSS IN WASHINGTON (REF B), CHANCELLERY AIDE  
RUHFUS ALSO PROVIDED SOME FURTHER BACKGROUND ABOUT THE  
CHANCELLOR'S ATTITUDE ON RFE/RL.

2. RUHFUS, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SAID HE HAD NOT  
YET HEARD OF THE CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS TO THE AMBASSADOR  
ON THIS SUBJECT LAST WEEK (REF A). HE THOUGHT THEY WERE  
PROBABLY MOTIVATED BY THE CHANCELLOR'S DISAPPOINTMENT  
AT NOT HAVING BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE RECENT REQUEST  
TO CONGRESS FOR AUTHORITY TO BOOST THE RFE/RL TRANS-  
MITTER CAPACITY.

3. RUHFUS SAID THE CHANCELLOR THOUGHT HE HAD HAD AN  
UNDERSTANDING WITH FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT THE  
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RADIOS WOULD GRADUALLY BE REDUCED IN FUNCTION AND  
PRESENCE, AND THAT SCHMIDT WAS THUS DOUBLY SURPRISED  
AT OUR ACTION.

4. RUHFUS SAID HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT THE CHANCELLOR'S  
OFFICIAL POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE DURING HIS  
CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT BECAUSE THERE WAS

CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE COALITION ABOUT WHAT SHOULD BE DONE REGARDING THE RADIOS. HE SAID IT WAS UNCERTAIN THAT SCHMIDT WOULD WANT TO RISK THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL TURMOIL THAT COULD FOLLOW IF THE RADIOS WERE TO BE REMOVED OR THEIR ACTIVITY REDUCED AT HIS REQUEST.

5. COMMENT: RUHFUS' OBSERVATIONS ECHO THE REMARKS MADE BY THE CHANCELLOR BUT ALSO POINT TO THE CHANCELLOR'S DILEMMA: THE RADIOS ARE AN IRRITANT IN FRG RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE - CHANCELLOR PRESUMABLY WILL AGAIN BE COMPELLED TO DEFEND THEM DURING HIS UPCOMING MEETING WITH BREZHNEV. HENCE HIS POSSIBLE RESENTMENT AT THE LACK OF CONSULTATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE DOUBT THAT HIS FDP COALITION PARTNER WOULD SUPPORT AN OFFICIAL DEMAND THAT THE US REDUCE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RADIOS. THEREFORE, SCHMIDT MAY LIMIT HIMSELF TO A PLEA FOR FUTURE CONSULTATION. NONETHELESS, WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS AN AREA IN WHICH IT IS EASY TO GENERATE MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE FRG, AND THAT WE SHOULD, THEREFORE, PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF FULL COORDINATION. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF THE PRESIDENT WERE ABLE TO GIVE SCHMIDT ASSURANCES ALONG THESE LINES.

STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON: HIS CONCERN ABOUT RFE/RL  
**TAGS:** OVIP, SOPN, OGEN, PFOR, GE, US, RFE, RL, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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